

## Lesson 2: Parents - Meet Your Child

1. Discuss the difference between raising children to “get their way” and raising them with an appreciation of “their way.”
  
2. ***“And when he is old he will not depart from it.”*** Pulpit commentary says, *“if from his early years a child is thus trained [in keeping with his temperament] . . . this education in accordance with his idiosyncrasy, will bear fruit all his life long.”* In other words, the child will grow up knowing that you know him and will be more inclined to hear and heed your admonition. Contrast that with a child that grows up in a caring-deficient home who senses that his parents really don’t know him. Which child is more likely to walk the path of obedience?
  
3. As a baseball coach for years, I saw some dads living out their dream in the life of their son. But what if the boy had no athletic ability? Some kids are born to compete athletically while others are made for academics. Some are talented for drama while others are natural with music. **DO NOT TRY TO FORCE YOUR CHILD** to fulfill what was never fulfilled in *your* life (the same is true for beauty-pageant obsessed moms, too). How much of a problem do you think it is?

## THE FATHER KNOWS BEST

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4. Discuss these three practical suggestions based upon **Proverbs 22.6**: (1) *Determine your priorities* (just how serious are you regarding time spent with each child), (2) *record your observations* (“note” mentally or in writing the bents of your baby and pray for wisdom to cultivate the good and counteract the bad), and (3) *share your findings* (help them to see who they are, like who they are, and be who they are).
  
5. Have you and your spouse ever sat down and discussed the differences in your children? What motivates each child? What methods of discipline work and don't work for each? What characteristics need to be encouraged and what needs to be curbed?
  
6. How often do you pray for each child? I don't mean, “Lord, bless the kids . . .” I mean praying for *each* child. In addition to becoming a Christian, what do you see as the greatest needs of each of your children?